MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

TUSKALOOSA

Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

GILGAL CHURCH,

TUSKALOOSA COUNTY, ALA.,

FROM THE 15th TO THE 18th OF SEPTEMBER, 1883.

OFFICERS:

T. M. BARBOUR, Moderator; J. T. YERBY, Stated Clerk.

The next Session will be held with Big Creek Church, commencing on Thursday before the Third Sabbath in Sept. 1884.

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GILGAL CHURCH, TUSKALOOSA CO., ALA.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1883.

The Tuskaloosa Baptist Association, in its Fifty-First Annual Session, convened with the Gilgal Church of Christ, on this day. At 11 o'clock, A. M., a large and attentive congregation assembled in the Meeting-House, to hear the Introductory Sermon preached by Rev. D. I. Purser, from 2nd TIM. 1 : 12, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

After a recess of one hour, the Delegates assembled in the house, and the Moderator, Rev. T. M. Barbour, opened the Association by reading the 62nd Chapter of Isaiah, singing "All hail the power of Jesus' name," and prayer by Rev. T. M. Bailey.

The Moderator then called the Roll of Churches, and the Delegates came forward bearing their respective letters of representation, and voted for Moderator of the present Session. The election resulted in the choice of Rev. T. M. Barbour.

LIST OF CHURCHES, with Names of the Delegates from Each.

Names of Ordained Ministers written in SMALL CAPITALS. Names of Licentiates in *italics*. Absentees marked thus (*)

FIRST DISTRICT.

Mt. Moriah—JAS. HOGAN, *J. Tibbs*, A. L. Roland, W. H. Allen.
Shultz Creek—Not represented.
Sardis—J. W. Loveless. J. G. Lowrey, Wm. Dyer, A. Clements.
Mt. Zion—D. A. Mitchell, J. T. Thrower,* M. Moses. John Hall.*
Bethel—William Mellown, E. Lawless.
Bibbville—W. J. HERRING,* D. A. Flournoy,* J. E. Rogers,* J. D. Sansing.*
Vance's—J. M. Vance.* J. A. Vance.* J. T. Ried.
Mt. Pleasant—W. I. Ryan, J. H. Ryland, J. M. Hicks,* J. Thompson.*
Big Hurricane---J.F. PRICE,* W.W. Martin,* T.D.Newell,* S.M. Black.*

SECOND DISTRICT.

Ruhama—Not represented.
Hopewell---A. Simpson, J. Crenshaw, A. Brown. Taylor Keen.*
Tuskaloosa—J. M. PHILLIPS. N. H. Browne, B. H. Williams, M. Ward.
Gilgal—J. B. Eddins, *T. B. Whatley*, *M. B. Smith*, W. H. Wilds.
Little Sandy—T. M. BARBOUR, J. H. PAYNE, J. B. Davis, Henry Ryan.
Big Sandy—E. Wright, J. D. Blocker, D. P. Skelton, J. H. Glover.
Mountain Springs---H. Dehart, B. Switzer, M. Jennings, J. M. Hicks,*

THIRD DISTRICT.

North-Port—J. T. YERBY, H. H. Brown, C. E. Rice, J. F. Appling.
Chapel Hill—J. W. HOSMER, Jas. Farley,* J. Sanders, C. G. Anders.
Carroll's Creek—Not represented.
Pleasant Hill—W. Snider, H. Snider, W. W. Watson, H. Snider, Jr. T. F. Montgomery.*
Salem—WM. AIKENS, J. N. Olive,* Samuel Stocks, James South.*
Bethabara—T. H. Wheat, G. L. Traweek,* S. T. Brown,*
Philadelphia—Not represented.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Big Creek—J. R. Bell,* J. P. Doughty, A. M. Barringer,* J. H. Rice, A. C. Roycroft, Alt.
Bethany—C. R. MCCORD, L. R. Finnell, *S. E. Hodge*, W. R. Hughes.
Dunn's Creek---R. J. MAYFIELD, Lewis Brown, Jas. White. A. J. Lewis.*
Moore's Bridge—M. Freeman,* Gray Strickland,* J. R. Rogers,* H. Sullivan, J. E. Wilson.
Pleasant Grove---J. Brown, R. J. Mayfield, H. S. Elmore,* A. M. Loyd.*
Mt. Olive—T. D. Parsons, Z. Watkins,* J. H. Watkins, Wm. Brittain.*

At the request of the Moderator, J. M. Phillips and H. H. Brown read the Letters.

Received Correspondence as follows:

NORTH RIVER ASSOCIATION--Rev. L. B. Harbin, with Letter & Minutes.
MUD CREEK---Rev. B. S. Thompson, with Letter.
HARMONY---Revs. S. V. McGinnis, D. H. Lewis.
UNION---R. D. Leavell, with Minutes.
CANAAN---Revs. M. M. Wood, G. T. Green.
MULBERRY---Revs. F. M. Hobson, M. T. Jenkins, with Minutes.
CAHABA---R. Y. Woods.

Rev. T. M. Bailey, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer of the State Mission Board, and Rev. D. I. Purser, State Evangelist, were cordially received and invited to seats with us.

Returned Correspondence as follows:

NORTH RIVER---J. T. Yerby, J. B. Eddins; J. H. Payne to write.
MUD CREEK---J. W. Hosmer, James Hogan; A. A. Hogan to write.
HARMONY---Jos. Tibbs, J. G. Lowrey, W. M. Mellown, E. C. Lawless, T. M. Barbour; Mellown to write.
UNION---J. M. Phillips, J. T. Yerby, H. H. Brown, C. E. Rice, N. H. Browne, L. R. Finnell, T. M. Barbour; H. H. Brown to write.
CANAAN---J. M. Phillips, J. T. Yerby, T. M. Barbour, J. B. Eddins, H. H. Brown, C. E. Rice, J. W. Hosmer, S. W. Vance, J. G. Lowrey, James Hogan; Hogan to write.
MULBERRY---L. C. Pratt, John Lowrey, W. F. Lowrey, Wm. Logan; J. G. Lowrey to write.
CAHABA---J. H. Payne, Newb. Rogers, J. D. Blocker; Blocker to write.
NEW RIVER---B. H. Williams, Jas. White, Wm. Aikins; White to write.
BIGBEE---J. T. Yerby, J. B. Eddins, T. M. Barbour; Eddins to write.

The Moderator then appointed the following Committees:

To serve during the present Session:

PREACHING—J. W. Thompson, L. R. Finnell, Joe Ryland, with the acting Deacons of Gilgal Church.
DOCUMENTS—H. H. Brown, J. D. Blocker, A. Simpson.
NOMINATIONS—J. G. Lowrey, C. E. Rice, M. Moses.

FINANCE—James White, Jos. Tibbs, E. C. Lawless.

And the following to serve for one year;

STATE MISSIONS—J. H. Foster, J. F. Appling, Jno. Loyd.
HOME MISSIONS—J. H. Payne, W. H. Wilds, J. S. Yerby.
FOREIGN MISSIONS—N. H. Browne, J. W. Hosmer, L. R. Finnell.
TEMPERANCE—J. G. Lowrey, S. E. Hodge, T. D. Parsons.
EDUCATION—J. M. Dill, A. K. Yancey, C. E. Rice.

The Committee on Preaching reported:

Rev. James Hogan will preach to-night. Sabbath, 10 A. M., Devotional Exercises by Rev. F. M. Hobson—Rev. T. M. Bailey to preach the Missionary Sermon, at 11 A. M., and Rev. D. I. Purser to preach at 2 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. THOMPSON, Ch'n.

On motion, it was ordered that Tuesday, 1 o'clock, P. M., should be fixed as the time of final adjournment.

On motion, adjourned to 9 A. M., Monday. Prayer by J. P. Doughty.

Rev. James Hogan preached at night. from ECL. 12: 13,14.

SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1883.

The services were conducted as arranged by the Committee on Preaching. Prayer-Meeting, at 9 A. M., was conducted by Rev. F. M. Hobson. The Annual Missionary Sermon was preached at 11 A. M., by Rev. T. M. Bailey, from ACTS 20: 35—"It is more blessed to give than to receive." A collection for Missions was taken up, amounting to $20,00. At 2 P. M., Rev. D. I. Purcer preached from GAL. 6: 7—"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th, 9½ o'clock, A. M.

The Association assembled, and spent one half hour in devotional exercises.

The Minutes of Saturday and Sabbath were read and corrected.

The Committees on State, Home, and Foreign Missions, made their reports, which were warmly and ably discussed by H. H. Brown, T. M. Bailey, D. I. Purser, and others, and finally adopted, as seen below. Pending this discussion, the Association adjourned for one hour. Prayer by Rev. S. V. McGinnis.

2 P. M.—Met and opened with prayer, by M. T. Jenkins.

The following Resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be requested to visit each Church, personally, during the year, and if possible, secure a contribution for Missions equal to the several amounts requested by the State Board and apportioned by the Association among the Churches.

Report on State Missions:

The work of State Missions has been prosecuted, during another year, under flattering auspices and with signal success. The State Board has

never been able to make so good a report, as to the number of workers in the field, results accomplished, and moneys secured, as that made at the last annual meeting of the Convention. More money has been contributed, more missionaries employed, more destitute fields have been occupied, and more work has been done, than during any preceding year since the present system of work was inaugurated. The aggregate of contributions for all purposes, was over $20,000, an advance of nearly $4,000 over the preceding year. There has been a corresponding increase of the working force in the field, and the results accomplished are proportionally greater. Thirty towns and villages and one hundred and fifteen country places, in 42 counties of the State, were supplied with the preaching of the gospel; 21 new churches were organized; a number of new church buildings erected; and more than 600 added to the churches by baptism, through the labors of these missionaries. Several Associations that have hitherto held aloof from the work, were brought into co-operation with the Board, and the outlook is more hopeful than ever.

The Bible and Colportage work has also been prosecuted with energy and encouraging success. Fifteen Colporteurs were appointed by the Board; 7,950 books and pamphlets sold; and more than 30,000 pages of tracts distributed. The effort to raise a Colportage fund of $100 each, resulted in securing fifteen such funds, which has enabled the Board to greatly enlarge this department of its work. It is the purpose of the Board to increase this permanent fund to $3,000, and we earnestly commend this object to the benevolence of the churches of this body. We know of no way in which money can be better invested, or accomplish a greater amount of good.

The work of evangelizing the colored people of the State, is emphasized in the report of the Board, and the effort will be made to raise $1,000 to aid our colored brethren in their work during the present year. The spiritual necessities of this people are pressing, and the destitution among them appalling. They have peculiar claims upon us growing out of their relations with us, and are entitled to our warmest sympathy and earnest co-operation in their efforts to evangelize their people.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. PHILLIPS, Ch'n.

Report on Home Missions:

The Committee on Home Missions beg leave to submit the following Report:—It is with profound gratitude to Almighty God that we observe the great and growing interest manifested by Southern Baptists in the work of Home Missions. We feel that the heart of every christian ought to be stirred within him, when he looks out upon the rapidly widening and whitening fields in this department of christian work, and views what has been accomplished, even by the few laborers, the feeble efforts, and the meagre contributions, hitherto employed. Brethren, let all of us, by the help of God, pray more, and *give* more, for the spread of the gospel. "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth more laborers into his harvest." From the Report of the Secretary of our State Mission Board, we gather the following interesting and suggestive facts:

Under the blessing of God, the Home Mission Board, in its new location in Atlanta, has prospered. "The receipts, during the last Southern Baptist Conventional year, amounted to $45,000. Of this amount, Alabama gave only $2,400. The Board had in its employ 95 laborers; of these, 7 were in Arkansas, 3 in California, 22 in Florida, 4 in Georgia, 1 in Kentucky, 14 in Indian Territory, 7 in Louisiana, 1 in North Carolina, 1 in Tennessee, and 34 in Texas. These missionaries have supplied 276 churches and stations, delivered 5,571 sermons and addresses, baptized 245 persons, received by letter 494, traveled over 60,000 miles, and distributed 74,479 pages of tracts. The Board desires to increase its working force among the 115,000 Chinese in California. It has already extended its work among the wild tribes in Indian Territory. It is addressing itself with

becoming earnestness to meet the appaling destitution in Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. It has made arrangements looking to the total cancellation of the debt of the Coliseum Place Church, New Orleans. The building of the First Church, on which a mortgage rested, has been purchased by the Board, and a lot has been secured in another part of the city, on which to build another Baptist house of worship in the Rome of the South. The vigorous efforts, being put forth by the Board, commend it to the liberalities of our Association. We are asked to raise, this year, for this Board, $148,10, and we must do it." In addition to these facts, we would also invite your attention to the numbers and condition of the Foreign population, who are so rapidly settling in the States and Territories of the great West, the evangelization of the Colored people of the Southern States, and last, though not least, to the Church Building Department, recently organized by the Southern Baptist Convention. Let no one, who has heard the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, say, in view of all these suggested responsibilities. "Go your way; be ye warmed and filled," but rather let every one willingly, *yea gladly*, do and give the things that are needful. Respectfully submitted,

J. T. YERBY, Ch'n.

Report on Foreign Missions:

Seven new missionaries were sent to Foreign fields during the year ending May 9th, 1883, and $6.000 remained in the treasury after all expenses were paid. The receipts for the year amount to $56,804.56—$7,500 more than reported the previous year. It is to be regretted that the contributions from Alabama did not show a proportionate increase, notwithstanding the great prosperity with which our people were blessed.

From Mexico and Brazil, our new fields, as from China, Africa, and Italy, encouraging reports come up in the letters of our Missionaries.

The fields are already white unto the harvest, and we ought to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers into the harvest, and prove the sincerity of our prayer by bringing liberal offerings to sustain those who go to represent us in preaching the gospel to every creature. Alabama is called on for $5.000 for Foreign Missions. Let the Tuskaloosa Association do her full share of this great work.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSHUA H. FOSTER, Ch'n.

Report on Temperance:

The subject of Temperance, or rather of Prohibition, is rapidly becoming *the* great absorbing theme of our age and country. In state and church, from the halls of Congress to the abodes of poverty and misery, we hear the cries of supplication, imploring deliverance from a Tyrant and Taskmaster more cruel and exacting than any other that ever figured in the world's history; and from a bondage more trying and oppressive than that under which Israel groaned in Egypt's darkest days. It is high time that the statesman, the philanthropist, and especially the christian, should lift up his voice in no uncertain notes, on the question so vital to the interest and prosperity of society, both in a political, religious, and social aspect. Every christian should feel appaled when he reflects that $700,000,000 are spent annually for Drinks, and about $7,000,000 for Benevolence! Let us, Brethren, as those who love and fear God, enter our unqualified protest against this sorest of all calamities. It is time for those who are on the Lord's side, to stand forth. Let us adopt and try to realize the words of the Psalmist: "Do not I hate them that hate thee, and am not I grieved with them that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred, I count them mine enemies."

Brethren, let us arouse from the lethargy of other years, and speak out, in no uncertain sound, on this vital subject. We want to emphasize the

fact, that now is the time for action, in every way possible, whereby we may sweep this besom of destruction from our State, yea, from the United States.

Respectfully submitted,
JAS. HOGAN, Ch'n.

Adjourned to 9 A. M., Tuesday. Prayer by Eld. J. G. Lowrey.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Devotional exercises, for half an hour, conducted by Bro. S. E. Hodge.

The regular order of business was suspended, and the Committee on Finance made report. Adopted:

The Committee on Finance, make the following report:

We have received for Minutes,	$40 00
Associational purposes,	14 00
For Missions,	198 50
Collection on Sabbath,	20 00
Other Collections,	21 50
TOTAL,	$294 00

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES WHITE, Ch'n.

Disposed of funds as follows: Minute Fund, to be used for printing Minutes. Associational Fund, to be paid to the Clerk for services. Missionary Fund, to be paid over to the State Board, to be distributed as may be deemed best.

On motion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee be composed of nine members, five to be appointed from Tuskaloosa and North-Port, and one from the country Churches, in each District.

Committee on Sunday Schools made the following report, which was warmly and ably discussed at length, and adopted:

Your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to submit the following Report:---The importance of the Sunday School, all will admit; yet, it is a subject which, the more it is discussed, the greater need we see of there being one established in every community.

So incomplete and varied, in our church letters, are the reports on Sunday Schools, that it is impossible to collect information upon which to base an intelligent report. Of the work within our bounds, we doubt there having been any advance the present year. Brethren, this ought not so to be. However, upon a survey of the general field, we can see progress in this department of christian labor.

Never has there been a time, within our knowledge, when the study of the Bible was so wide-spread and thorough as now. And yet, in face of this encouraging fact, we are forced to say a large proportion of our membership still stand aloof from this noble work.

For Spiritual good, we are satisfied that the Sunday School is the most efficient agent the Church has ever had, or ever will have. The care, instruction, and conversion of the young, are fundamental to the continuous growth of our Redeemer's Kingdom here on earth; and, a knowledge of the Bible, is the only bulwark against the great social and national

evils of intemperance, Sabbath-breaking, immoral literature, and unbelief, that so seriously threaten the Church at the present day.

In view of these facts, it becomes us to be loyal to the Sunday School. It is a move in the right direction. Let those of us engaged in the work, be stimulated by the thought that it's the Lord's work, and that, in due time, if we faint not, we shall reap our reward. And, in the prosecution of this work, let us be mindful to "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the Saints."

May the day soon come when every member of this Association will be a *consecrated* worker in the Sunday School.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. WILDS, Ch'n.

Report on Education:

Your Committee submit the following Report:---The cause of Education in the State is advancing. Broader and juster views, and fuller appreciation of its importance, are obtaining among our people. Never, before, was the spirit of Education more widely diffused, nor the sacrifices on the part of parents, to secure to their children the advantages of liberal education, greater than at the present. We also record, with pleasure, the increasing usefulness of the three Institutions for higher education, fostered by the denomination in Alabama. They are represented to be in successful operation and in a highly prosperous condition. They afford as good advantages for the education of our youth, as can be found in any Colleges of similar grade in the country. Through the CENTRAL FEMALE COLLEGE, JUDSON FEMALE INSTITUTE, and HOWARD COLLEGE, the Baptists of Alabama offer facilities for education, unsurpassed by any other denomination in the State. Let us foster and encourage these schools, by our contributions and patronage, and so enable them to keep pace with the increasing demands of the age.

The necessity for the education of the rising ministry, is so obvious, as to require no argument in this report. Let the contributions for this object be in proportion to the importance of the work.

Respectfully submitted,

A. K. YANCEY, Ch'n.

Aged and Infirm Ministers:

The Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers, submit the following Report:—This subject is one that should address itself to every member of this Association with peculiar force and interest. There are devolving upon us, as men and women, duties that we owe to one another, and to all mankind, that we cannot ignore and fail to perform, without subjecting ourselves to serious consequences. But as christians, there is a higher, nobler, and stronger obligation resting upon us, in regard to our duty to each other. We are bound together by ties that were formed in Heaven before the foundation of the world. There is a brotherhood existing between us that was made and confirmed by the Triune God, before the world was made, and which has since been cemented by the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and our only Saviour. For the purpose of bringing together the great family of God, of which we claim to be members, the Father has established means, and published, so to speak, to the world, a plan for the accomplishment of this work. Among other things, he has ordained that some shall preach the Gospel—that such as are called and set apart for this particular work, shall give themselves wholly to the ministry of the word. And then it is ordained, that they who preach the Gospel shall live of the Gospel—that the other members of the family shall support them, and see that all their temporal wants are supplied. And now, to the question: What is our duty to these servants of God, and these elder brothers in our Father's family, after they have worn themselves out in bringing into the fold the lambs of God—our own brethren—and feeding she sheep and nursing the lambs? The answer to this

question is so plain, that none can fail to see it:—Support and care for the aged and infirm ministers—see to it that the veterans of the Cross are not neglected—are mottoes that should be inscribed upon our banners, in letters that could not be misunderstood.

So far as your Committee are informed, there are none of this class of ministers, at this time, in our Association; but we should not content ourselves on this subject, on that account. There is an effort being made, by our denomination, to raise a permanent fund for this object, and we commend the enterprise as being one worthy of our highest consideration and support.

Respectfully submitted,
H. H. BROWN, Ch'n.

Report on Sunday School Institutes:

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.---The District Superintendents have furnished the following statistics:

Number of District.	Number of Institutes.	No. of Churches With Schools.	No. of Churches Without Schools.	No. of Officers and Teachers.	No. of Pupils.	Contributions to Missions.
1	2	9	2	40	400	$ 9 15
2		4		20	250	1 85
3	2	4	2	18	210	8 15
4	3	3		8	65	10 30
TOTAL.	7	20	4	86	925	$29 45

In the 2nd. District, only one Institute was appointed, and heavy rain on Saturday, prevented the meeting. On Sunday, a few persons met, and a collection was taken up after a presentation of the claims of Missions. Some improvement has been made in actual results, and much good seed sown that will bear fruit.

Respectfully submitted,
JOSHUA H. FOSTER, Sup't.

The Committee on Nominations reported:

The next Session of this Body will convene with the Church at Big Creek, Thursday, before the 3d Sunday in Sept. 1884. To preach the Introductory Sermon, Eld. J. W. Hosmer; Eld. James Hogan, Alternate. Missionary Sermon, Elder D. I. Purser; Alternate, Rev. J. M. Phillips. To write Circular Letter on Twelfth Article of Faith, Rev. J. H. Foster.

Executive Committee:—H. H. Brown, C. E. Rice, W. H. Wilds, N. H. Browne, B. H. Williams, A. A. Hogan, J. B. Eddins, Isaac Martin, and Jesse Doughty.

Delegates to State Convention:—J. M. Phillips, J. H. Foster, A. K. Yancey, J. B. Eddins, T. M. Barbour, Jas. Hogan, J. G. Lowrey, J. Tibbs, A. A. Hogan, J. W. Hosmer, H. H. Brown, C. E. Rice, N. H. Browne, L. C. Pratt, and J. T. Yerby.

State Convention to meet in the City of Tuskaloosa, on Friday, before the 3d Sabbath in July, 1884.

Southern Baptist Convention to meet in the City of Baltimore, Md., on May 7th, 1884.

Respectfully submitted.
J. G. LOWREY, Ch'n.

Resolved, That at the next meeting of this Body, the whole of the second day of the Session shall be devoted to the discussion of the subject of Missions, as presented by the Committees of the three Boards.

The Committee on Documents made the following Report:

Upon examination of the Documents placed in our hands, we find nothing that claims the special attention of the Association, except the Query, sent up from Mt. Zion Church. Upon the subject of the Query, the Committee suggest that it does not come under the provisions of the Constitution, and is therefore, not properly before the Association for consideration.

The following is a digest of the Letters, from the Churches, showing to some extent, the condition of the Churches:

BETHANY.---A live Church in some respects; keeps up Sunday School and prayer-meetings; reports nothing for Missions; has licensed S. E. Hodge to preach. J. R. McCord, pastor.

MT. MORIAH.---In good condition; sends up $25 for Missions and $5 for Colportage fund; baptized during the year, 13; reports a good Sunday School. James Hogan, pastor.

LITTLE SANDY.---Without a pastor, but shows some signs of activity; baptized none; reports a Sunday School, and sends $5,35 for Missions.

MOORE'S BRIDGE.---But little signs of activity; baptized, 4; no Sunday School reported; and nothing reported for Missions. Jasper Mayfield is their pastor.

CHAPEL HILL.---Small Church, but somewhat active; no baptisms reported; keeps up Sunday School and prayer-meetings; sends $3,10 for Missions. J. W. Hosmer, pastor.

PLEASANT HILL.---Some signs of life and prosperity; paid pastor $40, and reports $5,00 for Missions; no Sunday School or prayer-meetings. J. W. Hosmer, pastor.

BIG SANDY.---Considerable degree of prosperity; reports 11 baptisms; good Sunday School; sends up $6.70 for Missions, with J. H. Payne, as pastor.

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS.---Newly constituted; membership 123; has preaching two Sundays in each month; reports Sunday School and prayer-meetings; starts off as a live Church. J. W. Hosmer, pastor.

BETHABARA.---No pastor; cold and lifeless; no baptisms; no Sunday School or prayer-meetings; and nothing done for Missions.

SARDIS.---Sends up for Missions $10; reports no Sunday School or prayer-meetings; has had a revival season. T. M. Barbour, pastor.

NORTH PORT.---Reports 29 baptisms; $105 sent up for Missions; large and flourishing Sunday School, and prayer-meetings regularly kept up; pastor's salary, $600; unmistakable signs of life and prosperity. J. T. Yerby is their pastor.

PLEASANT GROVE.---Has had a revival meeting, and reports 11 additions by baptism; Sunday School and prayer-meetings, but nothing reported for Missions. R. J. Mayfield, pastor.

BIBBVILLE.—No Baptisms reported; has a fine Sunday School, and a weekly prayer-meeting; sends $5 for Missions. N. H. Williams, pastor.

BETHEL.—Weak in numbers; reports 3 baptisms; no Sunday School or prayer-meetings; sends the "Widow's Mite" for Missions, 50 cents. N. H. Williams, pastor.

BIG CREEK.—No baptisms reported; has a flourishing Sunday School; made a pledge for Missions, amount not given; preaching twice a month. M. M. Wood, pastor.

MT. ZION.—Sends $6 for Missions; baptized 3; reports a precious revival season; no Sunday School, or prayer-meetings reported. T. M. Barbour, pastor.

HOPEWELL.—Has been destitute of a pastor for most of the year; no baptisms; no Sunday School or prayer-meetings; J. H. Payne is their pastor now; nothing done for Missions.

VANCE'S.—Reports a revival meeting, and 5 additions by baptism; sends $10 for Missions; reports a Sunday School, but no prayer-meetings. Jas. Hogan, pastor.

Mt. Olive.—A young Church; has some active and devoted members; a Sunday School and prayer-meetings; sends up $3 for Missions; and reports a revival meeting; 4 baptisms; name of pastor not given.

Big Hurricane.—Reports 7 baptisms; no Sunday School or prayer-meetings reported, and nothing done for Missions. F. M. Hobson, pastor.

Gilgal.—Has preaching two Sundays in each month; prayer-meeting twice a month; baptized 1; sends for Missions $12,30, and reports $27,50 paid for Missions during the year; pastor's salary, $108,25; has no Sunday School. T. M. Barbonr, pastor. Has licensed M. B. Smith and T. B. Whatley to preach.

Tuscaloosa.—Beports 15 baptisms; sends for Missions $100; large and flourishing Sunday School; weekly prayer-meetings; building a magnificent House of Worship; pays pastor $900. J. M. Phillips, pastor.

Salem.—J. W. Rogers is the pastor of this Church; 3 baptisms reported; no Sunday School or prayer-meetings; nothing reported for Missions.

Dunn's Creek.—No additions reported, and nothing reported for Missions; reports a Sunday School at a School House in the neighborhood; no prayer-meetings; has 130 members. R. J. Mayfield, pastor.

Mt. Pleasant.—Baptized 31; reports a gracious revival season; no Sunday School or prayer-meetings reported; and nothing for Missions. J. W. Hosmer, pastor.

Mt. Tabor, Carroll's Creek, and Philadelphia—No letters.

Respectfully submitted,

H. H. BROWN, Ch'n.

REPORTS OF DISTRICT MEETINGS:

Report of the First District—The next session will convene with Mt. Moriah Church, on Friday before the 1st Sunday in Sept. 1884—Elder J. W. Loveless to preach the Introductory Sermon; Eld. J. Price, Alternate.

First subject for Discussion: "How can means of Grace be best obtained?" Opened by Wm. Mellown and A. A. Hogan.

Second: "How can we best enlist the co-operation of every member of our Churches, in active Christian work?" Opened by Rev. J. Tibbs and J. H. Ward.

J. TIBBS, Moderator.

JNO. G. LOWREY, Clerk.

Report of the Second District.—The next meeting of the Second District of the Tuskaloosa Baptist Association, will be held with Gilgal Church, commencing on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in June, 1884. Prayer-meeting at 10 o'clock, A. M., service to be conducted by Bro. T. B. Whatley; J. W. Thompson, Alternate. Sermon by Rev. J. M. Phillips, 11 o'clock, A. M.

Friday Evening—Discussion: "How can a Minister be successful in winning souls to Christ?" To be opened by M. B. Smith.

Saturday Morning—Discussion: "What can the Ministry do to vitalize their Churches in Religious Work?" To be opened by W. H. Wilds.

Further arrangements, to be made by the meeting.

J. H. PAYNE, Ch'n.

Report of the Third District.—The next meeting of the Third District will be held with the Pleasant Hill Church, commencing on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in Sept. 1884. Friday morning, Introductory Sermon, by Rev. J. H. Foster; Rev. J. T. Yerby, Alternate.

Afternoon—Discussion: "Experimental Religion." To be opened by S. T. Palmer and Wm. Watson.

Saturday, 11 A. M., Sermon by Rev. D. I. Purser.

Afternoon—Discussion: "Brotherly Love." Opened by Moses Olive and Isaac Martin.

Respectfully submitted,

R. F. PALMER, Ch'n.

Report of the Fourth District—The next meeting of this District will be held with the Bethany Church, commencing Friday, before the 3d Lord's Day in August, 1884. Preaching by Rev. J. T. Yerby, at 11 A.M.; G. W. Gravlee, Alternate.

Discussion for Friday: "What was the original desire for union meetings of the District?" To be opened by J. P. Doughty and Gray Strickland. Second: "What is the Work of the Holy Spirit?" To be opened by J. R. Mayfield and G. L. Traweek.

The next Session of the Tuskaloosa Baptist Association, will be held with the Big Creek Church.

This done by order of the District, Aug. 18th, 1883.

JAMES WHITE, Moderator.

G. L. TRAWEEK, Clerk.

After singing, taking the parting hand, and prayer by Rev. B. S. Thompson, the Association adjourned to meet with the Big Creek Church, on Thursday, before the 3d Sabbath in September, 1884.

T. M. BARBOUR, Moderator.

J. T. YERBY, Stated Clerk.

[NOTE.—The Association, and the visitors in attendance, were entertained by the citizens of the neighborhood, in their usual ample and hospitable style.]—CLERK.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our Union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of the THE TUSKALOOSA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, which shall have the privilege to enact and carry out Missionary purposes in all their bearings—yet, so as that the Churches and individual members are left free; and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to fellowship.

3. The Association shall unsurp no authority over the Churches in our Union, or infringe any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered an advisory council, in all matters relative to their internal concerns; nevertheless, it becomes necessary, in some cases to have a uniform rule of procedure, namely: If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more churches in our union to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring the case before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which, upon due labor, cannot be reconciled, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches, to assist in the work; and if a reconciliation be not effected, the helps so called, or the church, may bring the case before the Association to be acted on according to its merits; but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued according to the economy of the church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the Gospel of St. Mathew, and other parts of the Scriptures, which define the nature of offences; and the manner of bringing offenders to trial.

4. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association written communications, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and deceased, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

5. Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: each church shall be entitled to send four delegates, and no more. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session. Any delegate retiring from the Association, without leave, before the body adjourns, shall have his name stricken from the Minutes of that Session.

6. New churches may be admitted into our union, by delegates bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they are found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the delegates the right hand in token of Christian fellowship.

7. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

8. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by, and from the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A stated clerk shall be appointed, who shall continue in office until the Association shall elect his successor, and whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings, and to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of every session of this body, which he is to present to the view of the Association annually. An assistant clerk may be elected each year, if necessary.

9. The Association shall have power to exclude from the union any church that may violate the constitution, or depart from the orthodox principles of the constitution.

10. The Association shall furnish the Minutes of every session to the churches making contributions for that purpose.

11. Every query sent by a particular church must be included in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile it, but failed. In such a case, the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

12. Queries which immediately concern the general union of the churches, sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as practicable.

13. Any church in our union having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; and all presbyteries, in the ordaining of ministers or deacons, or in the constituting of churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Faith adopted by this Association.

14. The Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order; and make, at every session, a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

15. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

16. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

17. The Association shall, in all cases, (except to amend the Constitution) be governed by a majority of the members present.

18. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any session of the Association, when two-thirds of its members present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ, before the foundation of the world.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapability, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect, shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by immersion is the Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, but one who is regularly baptized, called, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but regularly baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call to order at any time.

3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decission to the body.

10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition, without permission of the Association, nor more than once till every member wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through.

12. The appellation of Brother shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1st. Devotional Exercises.
2nd. Presentation of Letters from the Churches, and Election of officers.
3rd. Receive Correspondence.
4th. Return Correspondence.
5th. Open the door for the reception of New Churches.
6th. Appoint Special Committees, viz:—1. On Preaching; 2. On Documents; 3. On Nominations; 4. On Finance.
7th. Reports of Standing Committees, viz:—1. On Sunday Schools; 2. Temperance; 3. On State, Home, and Foreign Missions; 4. On Education; 5, On Aged & Infirm Ministers; 6. On Periodicals; 7. Executive Committee.
8th. Miscellaneous Business.
9th. Read Corresponding Letters.
10th. Appointment of Standing Committees.
11th. Give parting hand.

STATISTICAL TABLE—TUSKALOOSA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

	CHURCHES.	Baptized,	Rec'd. by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed,	Excluded.	Died.	Total,	Minute Fund,	Association Fund	Missions.	Pastor's Salary.	Date of Constitution.	Monthly Meet'gs,	PASTORS.	PASTOR'S P. O.	CHURCH CLERKS	CLERK'S P. O.
1st DIST.	Mt. Moriah,	13	1		1			81	1 50	50	$ 30 00	$75 00	1827	4	James Hogan,	Bibbville,	A. A. Hogan,	Bibbville.
	Sardis,		1		4	2		45	1 25	50	10 00		1819	1	T. M. Barbour,	Tuskaloosa,	J. G. Lowrey,	Clements.
	Mt. Zion,	3	3	1	2	1	2	38	1 50	50	6 00		1850	3	do	do	D. Mitchell,	Tuskaloosa.
	Bethel,	3					1	24	1 00	50			1876	3	N. H. Williams.	Vances.	W. M. Mellown.	Clements.
	Bibbville,		4		1	1	1		1 50	50	5 00	61 75	1877	1	do	do	D. A. Flournoy,	Bibbville.
	Vance's,	5			6	2		23	1 00	50	10 00		1878	2	James Hogan,	Bibbville,	W. R. Vance,	Vance's.
	Mt. Pleasant,	31	13	6	139	5	2	25	50				1878	3	J. W. Hosmer,	North-Port,	W. I. Ryan,	Cottondale.
	Big Hurricane,	7	2	4		6	4	98	2 00				1838	2	F. M. Hobson,		J. R. Cox,	Clements.
2nd DIST.	Mount'n Sprg's,							123	2 50	50			1883	3	J. W. Hosmer,	North-Port,	W. I. Ryan,	Cottondale.
	Hopewell,						1	43	1 50	50	6 00		1836	4	J. H. Payne,	Tuskaloosa,	F. J. Keen,	Tuskaloosa.
	Tuskaloosa,	15	16		10	3	3	182	3 00	1 00	108 00	900 00	1818	2	J. M. Phillips,	do	J. C. Craddock,	do
	Gilgal,	1			9		1	72	2 50	1 50	12 30	250 00	1828	4	T. M. Barbour,	do	H. M. Swindle,	do
	Little Sandy,		1		4		1	48	1 50	50	5 35		1836	3	None,		Henry Ryan,	do
	Big Sandy,	18	4		2	1	2	84	1 50	50	6 70		1857	1	J. H. Payne,	Tuskaloosa,	J. D. Blocker,	Hull's.
3d DIST.	North-Port,	29	8	4	15	6	2	183	4 00	1 00	105 00	600 00	1839	1	J. T. Yerby,	North-Port,	H. H. Brown,	North-Port.
	Chapel Hill,		3		6	1		35	1 50	50	3 10		1838	1	J. W. Hosmer,	do	C. G. Anders,	do
	Pleasant Hill,					4		46	1 00	50	5 00	40 00	1856	2	do	do	T. J. Deason,	do
	Salem,	3	6		6	8		68	1 50	1 00			1824	3	J. W. Rogers,	Toledo,	W. F. Dawson,	New Lexington
	Bethabara,		1				1	46	1 50	50			1843	4	None,		G. L. Traweek,	North-Port.
4th DIST.	Big Creek,		3		3			77	2 00	1 00	16 35	150 00	1820	1	M. M. Wood,	Wheeling,	J. R. Bell,	do
	Bethany,	1	1				1	75	1 00				1832	3	C. R. McCord,	North-Port,	L. R. Finnell,	do
	Dunn's Creek,				6	1		130	1 50	50			1834	2	R. J. Mayfield,	Moore's Bridge,	James White,	Moore's Bridge.
	Moore's Bridge,	4			2	1	1	50	1 50	25			1859	3	do	do	Gray Strickland	do
	Mt. Olive,	4	1		1	1		27	1 50	50	3 00		1882	3	J. M. Andrews,	Romulus,	J. T. Doughty,	North-Port.
	Pleasant Grove,	11	3					33	1 00	25			1882	1	R. J. Mayfield,	Moore's Bridge,	F. Elmore,	Moore's Bridge.
	Mt. Tabor,	5		1	3	1		40	85				1859	4	G. W. Gravlee,	Newtonville,	J. A. Estis,	Palmetto.

Shultz Creek, in the 1st, Ruhama, in the 2nd, Carroll's Creek and Philadelphia, in the 3d District, not represented.